General Assembly

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Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 118

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/64/903)*]

64/301. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions relating to the revitalization of its work, including resolutions 46/77 of 12 December 1991, 47/233 of 17 August 1993, 48/264 of 29 July 1994, 51/241 of 31 July 1997, 52/163 of 15 December 1997, 55/14 of 3 November 2000, 55/285 of 7 September 2001, 56/509 of 8 July 2002, 57/300 of 20 December 2002, 57/301 of 13 March 2003, 58/126 of 19 December 2003, 58/316 of 1 July 2004, 59/313 of 12 September 2005, 60/286 of 8 September 2006, 61/292 of 2 August 2007, 62/276 of 15 September 2008 and 63/309 of 14 September 2009,

Stressing the importance of implementing resolutions on the revitalization of its work,

Recognizing the role of the General Assembly in addressing issues of peace and security, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

Recognizing also the need to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly,

Noting the important role and the activities of the Office of the President of the General Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly;[1]

2. *Decides* to establish, at its sixty-fifth session, an ad hoc working group on the revitalization of the General Assembly, open to all Member States:

(*a*) To identify further ways to enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly, inter alia, by building on previous resolutions and evaluating the status of their implementation;

(*b*) To submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-fifth session;

[1] A/64/903

3. *Also decides* that the Ad Hoc Working Group, at the sixty-fifth session, shall undertake a comprehensive review of the inventory contained in the annex to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group submitted at the sixty-third session,[2] and requests the Secretary-General to submit an update of the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on revitalization that have been addressed to the Secretariat for implementation that have not yet been implemented, with an indication of the constraints and reasons that are behind any lack of implementation, for further consideration by the Ad Hoc Working Group;

Role and authority of the General Assembly

4. *Reaffirms* the role and authority of the General Assembly, including on questions relating to international peace and security, as stipulated in Articles 10 to 14 and 35 of the Charter of the United Nations, where appropriate, using the procedures set forth in rules 7 to 10 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly which enable swift and urgent action by the Assembly, bearing in mind that the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter;

5. *Welcomes* the holding of thematic debates on current issues of critical importance to the international community, and invites the President of the General Assembly to continue with this practice in consultation with Member States;

6. *Also welcomes* the periodic informal briefings by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on his priorities, travels and most recent activities, and encourages him to continue with this practice;

7. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring increased cooperation, coordination and exchange of information among the principal organs, and in this regard welcomes the holding of periodic meetings between the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council;

8. *Welcomes* the practice of the President of the General Assembly of informing Member States about the outcome of these informal meetings through letters on a regular basis, and encourages future Presidents to continue with this practice;

9. *Also welcomes* the improvements that have been made in the quality of the annual reports of the Security Council to the General Assembly, encourages the Council to make further improvements as necessary, and takes note of the holding of informal meetings of the President of the Council with all Member States before the preparation of the report;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit proposals in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013, to review the budget allocation to the Office of the President of the General Assembly in accordance with existing procedures;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to endeavour to ensure, within existing resources, that the President of the General Assembly is provided with proper protocol and security services and adequate office space, with a view to

[2] A/63/959.

enabling the President to carry out his or her functions in a manner commensurate with the dignity and stature of the Office;

12. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Trust Fund in support of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, and invites Member States to contribute to the Fund;

13. *Invites* the Presidents of the General Assembly to periodically brief Member States on their recent activities, including official travels;

Selection and appointment of the Secretary-General

14. *Reaffirms its commitment* to continuing, in the Ad Hoc Working Group at the sixty-fifth session, in accordance with the provisions of Article 97 of the Charter, its consideration of the revitalization of the role of the General Assembly in the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General, and calls for the full implementation of all relevant resolutions, including, 11 (I) of 24 January 1946, 51/241, and 60/286, in particular paragraphs 17 to 22 of the annex thereto, which read as follows:

> "17. Recalls Article 97 of the Charter, as well as the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 11(I) of 24 January 1946 and 51/241, as relevant to the role of the Assembly in appointing the Secretary-General, upon the recommendation of the Security Council;
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> "18. Emphasizes, bearing in mind the provisions of Article 97 of the Charter, the need for the process of selection of the Secretary-General to be inclusive of all Member States and made more transparent and that, in the course of the identification and appointment of the best candidate for the post of Secretary-General, due regard should be given to regional rotation and gender equality, and invites the Security Council to regularly update the General Assembly on the steps it has taken in this regard;
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> "19. Encourages, without prejudice to the role of the principal organs as enshrined in Article 97 of the Charter, the President of the General Assembly to consult with Member States to identify potential candidates endorsed by a Member State and, upon informing all Member States of the results, to forward those results to the Security Council;
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> "20. Also encourages formal presentation of candidatures for the position of Secretary-General in a manner that allows sufficient time for interaction with Member States, and requests candidates to present their views to all States members of the General Assembly;
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> "21. Recalls paragraph 61 of its resolution 51/241, in which it is stated that, in order to ensure a smooth and efficient transition, the Secretary-General should be appointed as early as possible, preferably no later than one month before the date on which the term of the incumbent expires;
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> "22. Emphasizes the importance of candidates for the post of Secretary-General possessing and displaying, inter alia, commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, extensive leadership, and administrative and diplomatic experience;"

Strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly

15. *Welcomes* the submission by the President of the General Assembly to the Ad Hoc Working Group of his views on the strengthening of the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the Assembly,[3] in accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 63/309;

16. *Takes note* of the recommendations contained in the annex to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group;

17. *Requests* the outgoing Presidents of the General Assembly to brief their successors on the lessons learned and best practices;

Working methods

18. *Requests* that the General Assembly and its Main Committees, at the sixty-fifth session, in consultation with Member States, make proposals for the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items on the agenda of the Assembly, taking into account the relevant recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group, including through the introduction of the sunset clause, with the clear consent of the sponsoring State or States;

19. *Takes note* of the briefing on documentation provided to the Ad Hoc Working Group, and encourages Member States to make full use of the e-services provided by the Secretariat, taking into account the cost savings and the reduced environmental impact that may accrue from this exercise, in order to improve the quality and distribution of documents;

20. *Stresses* the importance of further enhancing public and media awareness of the work and decisions of the General Assembly, and requests continued consideration of this issue in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) at the sixty-fifth session under the item entitled "Questions relating to information";

21. *Decides* that the Ad Hoc Working Group, during the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, shall consider options for more time-effective, efficient and secure balloting, reiterating the need to ascertain the credibility, reliability and confidentiality of the balloting process, and requests the Secretariat to submit an update on the latest developments.

121st plenary meeting
13 September 2010

[3] A/64/903, annex.